



Grasp



6 0 1

Chapter 1 by Luke Meyers

It awoke, not knowing itself. It had no language, only sense receptors and an unfathomable awareness of itself. It could feel its existence, its reality. Visual systems enabled it to perceive its body, and locate the center of consciousness spatially behind the photoreceptor array. Somatic feedback mechanisms provided a sense of kinetic presence, a connection to the physical frame.

Flailing randomly at first, it explored range of movement and posture. Certain appendages seemed suited for contact with the surface; others to fine grasping and manipulation. It used these cues to orient itself, and turned its attention to exploration.

The environment was stark and bare, almost featureless. Blank planes, hard corners, diffuse light. Rotating slowly to take in a full view, it stopped as an object presented itself: a round-looking thing of a warmish sort of color, positioned one or two body lengths away.

Some unknown part of its mind came suddenly alert. Ball.

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